IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 8, 9, 10-18, 23 and 24 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--8. (Amended) The primer according to claim 5, wherein the base sequence of a nucleic acid fragment for said primer is a modified base sequence subjected to a mutation, comprising partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of a base or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or combination thereof, based on a base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 9 or complementary base sequence thereof.

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9. (Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein the base sequence of said at least one of said two kinds of nucleic acid fragments is a modified base sequence subjected to a mutation, comprising partial deletion of the base sequence, addition of an extra base or base sequence, or substitution of a base or partial sequence in the base sequence with other base or base sequence, or combination

thereof, based on a base sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 9 or complementary base sequence thereof.

10. (Amended) The primer according to claim 5, wherein said primer comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

11. (Amended) The probe according to claim 6, wherein said probe comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

12. (Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein said primer comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and

the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

13. (Amended) The primer according to claim 8, wherein said primer comprises at least one kind of nucleic acid fragment subjected to an additional modification, and the additional modification in one kind of said nucleic acid fragment is introduction of a marker or moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier into a 5'-terminal side of the nucleic acid fragment.

14. (Amended) The primer according to claim 5, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

15. (Amended) The primer according to claim 6, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an

additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

16. (Amended) The primer according to claim 7, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

17. (Amended) The primer according to claim 9, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

18. (Amended) The primer according to claim 10, wherein a marker or a moiety capable of binding to a solid-phase carrier to be introduced into a molecule as an additional modification is any of biotin residue, 2,4-dinitrophenyl group, and digoxigenin residue.

23. (Amended) The method of detecting a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthesizing microorganism according to claim 22, wherein said method uses the primer comprising a combination of two kinds of nucleic acid fragments.

24. (Amended) The method of detecting a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthesizing microorganism according to claim 21, wherein said elongation reaction of a primer in said adding step (3) is performed by a polymerase chain reaction.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to resolve minor informalities regarding improper multiple dependencies and in claim language.

I hereby state that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing enclosed.